>

Title: Environmental impact assessment of Assam and North Eastern States.

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL : I would like to draw the attention of the House to a very important matter regarding environmental impact assessment. Arunachal Pradesh is taking up a lot of power plants over its rivers, which are coming from the hilltop to the Brahmaputra Valley.

Sir, my humble submission is this. Environmental impact assessment is a tool used for decision making regarding projects. EIA is intended to identify the environmental, social and economic impacts of a proposed development prior to decision making. The environmental assessment is carried out by the developer although the task is often carried out by environmental consultants. It is carried out in order to produce an environmental statement. EIA has got two processes − preliminary assessment and detailed assessment. Scoping is used to identify the key issues of concern at an early stage in the planning process.

I am coming to the main point. People of Assam have got tremendous apprehension of the rivers from hills which are coming down to Assam and a lot of projects are coming up. There are some very important reports. The findings of EIA report of 2002 in NHPC 2000 MW lower Subam Shree Project at Garukamuks project reveals that if there is any bridge of dam constructed on the river in Arunachal Pradesh, there will be no way of rescue because the water reservoir will be above 70 km. with the depth of 1000 metres.

That is why, we demand the Government concerned and the Department concerned that there should be proper impact assessment so that the people of Assam do not have any fear psychosis out of these projects and they are secured and the public view should be recorded at the time of preliminary stage of the preparation of the project report.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Sir, I associate with the issue.